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(54) **Signal-processing method and system for off hook notification**

(57) A signal-processing method and system for a telecommunications switch (10) that supports a number of individually addressable telephones (14, 16 and 18) including transmitting ring signals to telephones that are determined to be in an inadvertent off-hook condition. The telecommunications switch is configured to transmit a first notification ring signal (64) upon detecting that a particular telecommunications line (20, 22 and 24) is in a condition that indicates that the associated telephone is in the inadvertent off-hook condition. The first ring sig-

nal induces a ring condition that preferably is uniquely identifiable as indicating that the phone has been left off-hook. A second notification ring signal (70) is transmitted if the phone is returned to the on-hook condition and an incoming call is directed to the telephone. Preferably, the second ring signal induces a uniquely identifiable ring condition indicating that an incoming call is directed to an off-hook telephone. Optionally, a third off-hook notification signal may be transmitted to the phone to generate an audible alert by means of a speaker (44) in the earpiece of the telephone.

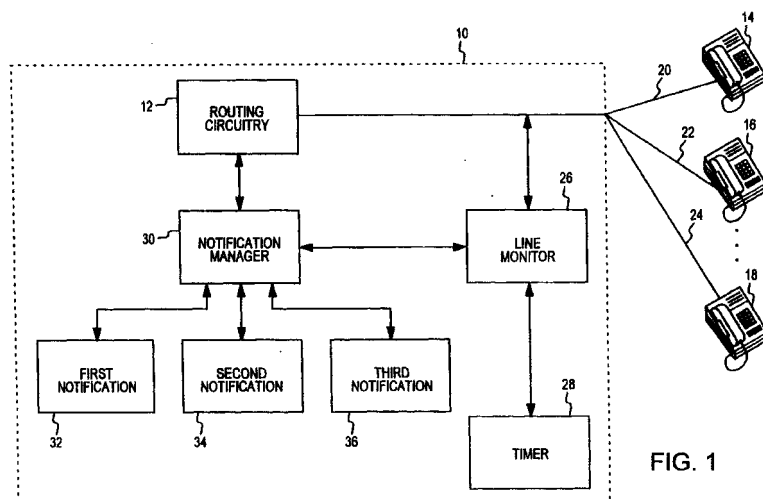


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
D,A	US 5 612 997 A (VALLELONGA SR KENNETH M ET AL) 18 March 1997 (1997-03-18) * abstract *	1,7	H04M3/22 H04M3/14
D,A	US 5 390 249 A (PARK CHUNG H) 14 February 1995 (1995-02-14) * abstract *	1,7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			H04M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 3 May 2002	Examiner Vandevenne, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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03-05-2002

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US 5612997	A	18-03-1997	NONE
US 5390249	A	14-02-1995	NONE

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82